

a higher priority service processing logic, or is to be deleted when the service processor has exceeded its processing and/or memory availability, number of times the service has been executed exceeds a threshold, and/or lack of activity for a given duration. As such, the service provider will maintain a current activation/deactivation of the service processing logic in accordance with the commands provided by the subscriber and/or in accordance with communication service policies. Once the service provider has disabled or modified the service processing logic in accordance with the command, the process proceeds to step 107.

If, at step 112, it was determined that the service provider is not capable of processing the service requests, the process proceeds to step 116. At step 116 a determination is made as to whether the service provider's incapability of processing the request is due to insufficient processing and/or memory availability. The determination may further be based on whether the system has sufficient communication resources to support the service. If not, the processes is complete for this particular service request and the request will not be fulfilled. If, however, the incapability is due to insufficient processing and/or memory, the process proceeds to step 118. At step 118, the request is queued until the processing and/or memory is available.

The preceding discussion has presented a method and apparatus for decentralized processing of service requests in a communication system. In essence, the present invention shifts the intelligence of service processing to the end-users such that the infrastructure is dependent upon the subscribers. As such end-users are provided with greater flexibility in customizing how particular services are processed for them. Further, subscriber units are more likely to have their full set of features available to them at any site since they provide the software to

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the service providers. In centralized implementations, the subscriber units are limited to services that the service providers are capable of supporting.

5 We claim: